

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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SECURITY INFORMATION

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COUNTRY	Jordan	REPORT NO.	CS-8216
SUBJECT	Efforts of Prime Minister to Obtain ex-Mufti Support	DATE DSTR.	29 April 1953
DATE OF INFO.	March 1953	NO. OF PAGES	1
PLACE ACQUIRED	Jordan, Amman (26 March 1953)	REQUIREMENT NO.	SD
		REFERENCES	

THE SOURCE EVALUATIONS IN THIS REPORT ARE DEFINITIVE.
THE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS PREDICTIVE.
(FOR KEY SEE REVERSE)

SOURCE: Competent American observer (B); from an informant with close contacts among Jordanian politicians (F). Appraisal of Content: 3.

1. Prime Minister Tawfiq 'Abd-al-Huda, in order to strengthen his position against the opposition, has been attempting to gain the support of ex-Mufti Hajj Amin al-Husayni's followers in Jordan. In line with this policy 'Abd-al-Huda has taken the following steps:
 - a. Permitted Faysal Nabulsi, exiled ex-Mufti supporter, to return to his home in Mablim.
 - b. Allowed Avni 'Abd-al-Hadi, Jordanian Ambassador to Cairo, to meet with the ex-Mufti in Cairo and discuss the Palestine and refugee problems.
 - c. During December 1952, considered appointing Dr. Da'ud al-Husayni,¹ ex-Mufti strategist, to the newly-created position of Deputy Minister of the Interior in Jerusalem.
 - d. Sent Salim al-Bakhti and Wasfi Mirea, pro-Government deputies, to sound out political leaders in Jordan regarding their reaction in the event of the ex-Mufti's return to Jordan.
 - e. During February 1953 while on leave, met with Amil Ghuri of the Arab Higher Executive (AHE) and discussed the refugee situation in Jordan.

Field Comments.

1. Khalil al-Khayri, Minister of Commerce and Economics, was sent by 'Abd-al-Huda to discuss the appointment with al-Husayni who is generally recognized as the present leader of the ex-Mufti's followers in Jordan. Al-Husayni stood trial for the assassination of the late King 'Abdullah but was acquitted.
2. Although it is improbable that 'Abd-al-Huda will arrange for the return of the ex-Mufti at this late date, in view of the coronation of King Husayn on 2 May 1953, the overtures noted above have strengthened 'Abd-al-Huda's position. Should either 'Abd-al-Huda or Sa'id Mufti, his supporter, be asked by King Husayn to form a cabinet, it is likely that they will enjoy the support of the ex-Mufti group.

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State Working Standard Indicated by "X"; Field Standard by "F"

EE	SR	SA	X	ME/PP	X									
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